

Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/BR2002/000176 filed December 6, 2002

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

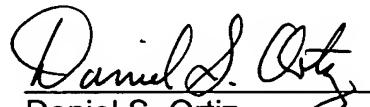
Claims 12-24 are currently pending in the instant application.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered in the specification. The amendments to the specification are of an editorial nature and do not enter new matter.

The claims have been amended to place them in a form for ready examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. All multiple dependencies have been deleted. The claims are intended to be no narrower than the original claims. No amendment has been entered to overcome any prior art of which Applicants are aware.

Favorable consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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